GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:288
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2002
TRADE TREATIES WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed or propose to review the trade treaties with neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; country-wise;

(c) whether several rounds of talks were held with these countries before reviewing the treaties;

(d) if so, the specific changes sought by Indian Government in the existing treaties particularly in case of Indo-Nepal trade treaty;

(e) the reaction of these countries;

(f) whether issue of dumping and smuggling of goods from these countries into India has also been discussed before reviewing the treaties; and

(g) if so, the details of new treaties signed by our Government with neighbouring countries and the specific clauses incorporated in the treaties to protect the Indian industries from adverse impact?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (g) : Among the neighbouring countries, India has bilateral trade agreements / treaties, with all countries, (except Pakistan,) namely; China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Only the Treaty of Trade between India and Nepal is being reviewed. Discussions are in progress between the concerned authorities of India and Nepal to resolve certain issues that have emerged during the implementation of the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade, as modified in December, 1996, prior to the extension of its validity. A limited extension of the Treaty for a period of three months from December 5, 2001, has been agreed to enable the negotiations to the Treaty to be concluded.